**Colorado Horse Council Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Virtual via Zoom**

**October 24, 2020, 1:00 p.m.**

**Legend**

**MSP =** Move, Second, Passed

**MSF =** Move, Second, Fail

**TAB =** Tabled for next meeting, please include on next agenda

**REF =** Referred to Committee or individual for action or further study

**REP =** Report, information presented, no motion enacted on information

**Call to Order** by President Bruce Seymore at 1:08 p.m. There were 44 participants present plus proxies equaling a quorum.

**Secretary’s Report** – Vivian Van Buren, Secretary

**MSP =** The minutes from the October 2019 CHC Annual Meeting were presented to the membership for approval.

**MOTION:** To approve the October 20, 2019 CHC Annual Meeting minutes as presented.

**Election of Board of Directors Nominees for 2021** – CHC Nominating Committee

**MSP =** The slate of new board members nominated are Leslie Klane and Kymberly Morrissey. They were introduced to the membership.

**MOTION:** Bruce Seymore asked for a motion to vote Leslie and Kimberly on to the Board. The uncontested slate of CHC Directors for 2021 was accepted by a vote of acclamation and by proxy.

**President’s Report** – Bruce Seymore, President

**REP =** COVID is all around us, but it has given our industry an opportunity to reinvent who we are.

Bruce, Executive Director at Arapahoe Park race track owned by Twin River Worldwide Holdings, gave an update on what he and the track went through during the pandemic this summer. He also spoke about going forward with horseracing and talked about the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act of 2020.

One of the best ways to protect the equine industry is by becoming a member of the Colorado Horse Council. With over 205,000 horses in the state of Colorado, we need the power of one voice with the included benefits of legislative representation, liability insurance protection, networking capabilities, and microchipping identification for our horses. Bruce added that the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo is the largest west of Ohio. He also spoke about what CHC does regarding emergency evacuations for horses and about equine disease control. It’s also critical to keep horses listed as livestock and not pets. By working together, we can be stronger than ever.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Andrea Raschke, Treasurer

**MSP =** Andrea presented the annual financial statements to the membership for approval.

**MOTION:**  To approve the CHC October 2019 through September 2020 financial statements.

**Colorado Horse Development Authority (CHDA) –** Dennis Kuehl, CHDA President

CDHA is a government agency that serves as a funding source for CHC. It takes in monies from brand inspections, the microchip program, and equine “Support the Horse” license plates. Bruce added that CHC and CHDA are guardians at the gate for protecting the equine industry and interests in Colorado.

**Legislative and Regulatory Report –** Jennifer Boulton, CHC Board Member

**REP =** Jennifer Bolton, who works with the Colorado Legislature, was unable to join the meeting and sent the following message through Bill: At the moment, almost everything regarding the legislature is up in the air due to COVID. They are watching around 40 bills over the next 2 years that include land, trail, transportation, ownership, and welfare issues that will impact horses throughout Colorado. Bill also chairs the Colorado Agriculture Council which deals with land and water rights.

**Executive Director’s Report –** Bill Scebbi, CEO

**REP =** Bill is working on finalizing moving the CHC offices from Suite 106 to Suite 301 in the same historic City Hall building in downtown Brighton. The new space is smaller but more efficient. In addition, he discussed the CHC website, the Equine City Hall, the data base system, the Horse Town Store, and membership renewals.

**REP =** No Heritage Rides could be held in 2020 due to COVID restrictions.

**REP =** The Equine Heritage Foundation is now officially a 501c3 (CHC is a 501c6 and is not a tax deductible organization). The Foundation will be another source of revenue that can raise tax deductible monies to protect the heritage of the horse. Colorado is bordered by seven other states, and the new Foundation will also focus on working with them.

**REP =** Bill also discussed the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo, which first started in 1992. It’s a great opportunity to market the equine industry with lots of diverse activities offered. It is too soon to predict if there will be an Expo in 2021, but the Stock Show has already been cancelled, and the Expo itself would have to be extremely limited to meet COVID restrictions and liability issues. Bruce Seymore and Vivien Van Buren spoke about these detriments.

**Member Input Q&A**

**REP =** Bill asked Andrea to talk about animal emergency evacuations because of the record-breaking wildfires that have been in Colorado this year. Andrea recommends that all horse owners should have their horses brand inspected and microchipped for proof of ownership and easy identification. Each county is unique, but please have a plan in place regardless of where your horse is located.

**REP =** Bill suggested that if anyone has any additional questions or concerns to please contact him via email at chc@ColoradoHorseCouncil.com.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business**

Bill gave an update on various other horse councils across the country. CHC is a member of the American Horse Council as well as the Coalition of State Horse Councils.

**Meeting Adjourn**

**MSP =** to adjourn at 2:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by CHC Secretary, Vivian Van Buren